# THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

14


ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

YES, IT MUST BE.

OH, NAGATO-SAN...

COULD NAGATO'S APPEAR-ANCE HERE BE OUR SALVATION?

# THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

14

ORIGINAL STORY NAGARU TANIGAWA

MANGA GAKU TSUGANO

CHARACTER DESIGN: NOIZI ITO

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HUH?

WE NEED TO TALK. COME WITH ME.

UM...IS SOME-THING WRONG?

I'LL PUT SOME TEA ON RIGHT AWAY!

BA (BURST)

KYUWAAH!

BAN (SLAM)

OH, YES!

SO ASAHINA-SAN, ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING...

I OWE YOU ONE, NAGATO.

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF SAYING ANY-THING LIKE THAT.

WHICH MEANS ...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO COME THIS TIME!

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

FOR WHAT REA-SON?

I DON'T KNOW.

UM, EIGHT DAYS FROM NOW AT 4:15 P.M.

WHEN DID YOU COME FROM?

WHY ARE YOUR REQUESTS ALWAYS APPROVED SO QUICKLY?

I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING, KYON...

I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

I JUST DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO DO.

YOU TOLD ME TO SAY "HI" TO YOUR PAST SELF.

YOU SEEMED NERVOUS AND TOLD ME I'D UNDER-STAND IF I WENT.

YES.

MY EIGHT-DAYS-LATER SELF TOLD YOU TO...?

HUH?

FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, IT HAPPENED EIGHT DAYS AGO...

...SO WHAT HAPPENED AFTER NAGATO TOOK YOU AWAY?

ASAHINA-SAN...

...WHAT HAPPENED AFTER YOU WERE TAKEN FROM THE CLUB ROOM?

HA (GASP)

I DON'T GET IT.

MY EIGHT-DAYS-IN-THE-FUTURE SELF ...?

HOW CAN NUMBER THEORY BE USED TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD? HOW WOULD ONE CONCEPTUALLY REFUTE THAT?

UMM...

...AND ASKED ME ALL SORTS OF STRANGE THINGS.

OH, RIGHT ...

SHE TOOK ME TO THE EMERGENCY STAIRS...

HUH?

NO, I DIDN'T...

OH!

...DID YOU EVER MEET YOUR OTHER SELF?

DURING THIS WEEK ...

TA (DASH)

ARE YOU SURE IT WAS EIGHT DAYS FROM NOW?

...I CAN'T LET THE TWO ASAHINAS BUMP INTO EACH OTHER.

NAGATO MANAGED TO BUY ME SOME TIME, SO...

BA (SLAM)

TA

HFF!

THEN WAS THERE SOME INCIDENT THAT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED YOU TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST?

YOU TOLD ME TO GO EIGHT DAYS BACK, TO 3:45 PM.

TA TA

YES.

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

TA

YOU JUST DRAGGED ME OVER TO THAT BROOM CLOSET AND PUSHED ME IN.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

TA

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

THE TIME I'M ALLOWED TO GO BACK IS ALSO CLASSIFIED.

I THOUGHT THE SAME THING AND ASKED ABOUT IT, BUT THEY SAID NOTHING.

SO WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO?

JUST DO NOTHING AND WAIT EIGHT DAYS?

...IS WHY I DIDN'T SEND HER BACK WITH A NOTE...

WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

WHICH MEANS THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO.

THOSE SHOES BELONG TO YOUR PAST SELF!

ASA-HINA-SAN!

Y-YES?

AND I DON'T REMEMBER LOSING MY SHOES.

I'D BE MAKING IT HARD FOR MY OTHER SELF TO GET HOME.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT...

RIGHT NOW I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT "WHERE" THAN "HOW."

GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE HER WALK HOME IN HER SCHOOL SLIPPERS.

GOOD OLD ASAHINA-SAN, ALWAYS PREPARED.

HAVEN'T SEEN A MESSAGE LIKE THIS IN QUITE A WHILE.

HOW DEPRESSING.

SKIPPING CLUB— NO, BRIGADE ACTIVI-TIES— IS ALWAYS TERRIFY-ING.

IT'S GUARANTEED TO PUT HARUHI IN A BAD MOOD, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT PUNISHMENT SHE'LL...

CAUSING YOU TROUBLE AGAIN, I...

I'M SORRY.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE MIKURU ASAHINA BESIDE YOU.

BUT I WONDER WHAT THIS ALL MEANS...

MY FUTURE SELF'S TO BLAME HERE.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

I WAS THE ONE WHO SENT YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHE'S DEFINITELY BEHIND THIS.

I'M SURE SHE SENT THE NOTE.

ASAHINA-SAN DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE HER FUTURE SELF WROTE THIS.

ASAHINA-SAN HAD TO HAVE BEGUN NOTICING...

...SINCE THE MEMBERS OF THE SOS BRIGADE WERE GRADUALLY CHANGING.

...HER FUTURE SELF KEPT FLICKERING INTO BEING AROUND HER.

AND WHEN WE SAVED THAT GLASSES-WEARING KID...

STILL, DECEMBER 18TH...

AND IT'S NOT JUST ASAHINA.

THE RATE AT WHICH HARUHI'S CREATING CLOSED SPACE IS DECREASING TOO.

NAGATO SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BECOMING LESS ALIEN.

EVEN KOIZUMI SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MR. LIEU-TENANT BRIGADE CHIEF?

IT'S LIKE SHE KNOWS IT'S COME TRUE.

I WANT TO BELIEVE THIS IS ALL A SIGN OF HER GROWTH AS A PERSON.

HAVE I GROWN MYSELF? NO IDEA.

IF THERE ARE ANY ALIENS, TIME TRAVELERS, OR ESPERS, COME SEE ME!

E-EXCUSE ME.

OH, WHERE'S HARU-NYAN?

HEY, IT'S MIKURU-CHAN!

NOW THEN ...

WHERE'S YUKI? WHERE'S KOIZUMI-KUN? WHERE'S TSURUYA-SAN?

TELL ME ABOUT THE WEEK.

BAN (SLAM)

IS THIS A DATE?

HEY, HEY...

I WENT TO THE CLUB ROOM AND SAW THE HEATER WAS ON EVEN THOUGH NOBODY WAS THERE...

THEN I WENT TO THE LANDING WITH NAGATO-SAN...

AND THAT'S WHAT JUST HAPPENED.

WELL ... ... EIGHT DAYS AGO... THAT'S TODAY, I GUESS ...

..AND GLARED AT THE WINDOW. HER EYES WERE SCARY

SHE SEEMED A LITTLE ANGRY..

MAYBE THIRTY MINUTES LATER, SUZUMIYA-SAN CAME

WHEN I WENT BACK, YOUR BAG WASN'T THERE BUT KOIZUMI WAS

HA (GASP)

SHE REALIZED YOU WEREN'T THERE, AND ..

AND CALLED ME..?

I FORGOT ...

...THESE AREN'T MEMORIES, THEY'RE ACTUALLY HAPPENING

...MY ROOM.

What, you're ditching?

WHERE ARE YOU?

What do you mean, "some-thing"?

WELL . .

SOMETHING CAME UP.

UH... UM...

ALO-PECIA AREATA. HAIR LOSS.

OH YEAH? SICK WITH WHAT?

HAD TO TAKE HIM TO THE VET.

SHAMISEN GOT SICK.

HUH ...

...

.....

NO, I'M NOT.

ARE YOU WITH ANYONE?

UGH, SHE'S TOO SHARP.

...SO WHAT'D HARUHI DO NEXT?

SFX: GACHA (CLICK)

Tell Shamisen I said "Get well."

Bye.

CELL: CONNECTED, HARUHI SUZUMIYA

Oh yeah?

From your voice, I thought someone was there.

SUZUMIYA-SAN SEEMED SORT OF QUIET.

SHE JUST STAYED IN THE CLUB ROOM, READING A MAGAZINE ...

SHE WAS IN THE ROOM UNTIL AFTER FIVE ...

...AND THEN EVERY-BODY WENT HOME.

SUZUMIYA BROUGHT A TREASURE MAP ALONG, SO WE ALL WENT OUT DIGGING...

DIG-GING!?

UM, WE GO ON A TREASURE HUNT ON THE NEXT HOLIDAY.

HOW FAR AHEAD SHOULD I GO...?

EVEN ASAHINA WAS STARTING TO PICK UP ON HARUHI'S STRANGELY SUBDUED BEHAVIOR LATELY.

SO WHAT ABOUT TOMOR-ROW, OR THE DAY AFTER?

TSURUYA-SAN GAVE IT TO SUZUMIYA-SAN.

WHEN HER FAMILY WAS REMODELING THEIR HOUSE, THEY FOUND THIS MAP SOME ANCESTOR MADE...

IT WAS DRAWN IN INK AND REALLY OLD.

THE MOUN-TAINS.

WHERE'D WE GO DIGGING?

NYAA (MEOW)

!!!

THAT TSURUYA-SAN... WE'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS.

WHAT IS THIS, BEYOND THE PALE OF VEN-GEANCE?

I'M EXHAUSTED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

SO? DID WE FIND ANY TREA-SURE?

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN ON THE TSURUYA ESTATE.

YOU CAN SEE IT FROM THE HILL ON THE WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL.

...?

...I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED.

NO.

THERE WEREN'T ANY OLD TREA-SURE CHESTS BURIED ANY-WHERE.

UM...

ALSO, THE DAY AFTER THAT...

I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO WASTE MY PRECIOUS DAY OFF LOOKING FOR A TREASURE I KNEW DIDN'T EXIST.

SUCH POINT-LESS WASTED EFFORT.

BUT MONDAY WAS A VACATION DAY TOO, SO...

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S TWO STRAIGHT DAYS' WORTH OF STUFF TO DO.

MORE DIG-GING?

NO, ON SATUR-DAY, WE...

...WE DID A CITY PATROL.

NO.

IT WAS THE SAME AS ALWAYS. WE DRANK SOME TEA, ATE SOME LUNCH...

OH, RIGHT, MONDAY'S THE SPECIAL CLASS ENTRANCE EXAMS. SO, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING MYSTE-RIOUS?

I REMEMBER IT PERFECTLY.

SINCE FOR ME, IT HAPPENED TODAY.

SO...

WHAT WAS THE SITUATION WHEN I TOLD YOU TO GO BACK IN TIME?

*TIME FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH.*

GORONYAA (MEOWRRRL)

?

A LOTTERY, TO SPONSOR THE SOS BRIGADE.

WE WERE DOING A FUND-RAISER IN THE COURTYARD.

I WAS IN CHARGE OF HANDING OUT PRIZES.

THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE, SO IT WAS KINDA SCARY...

HUH?

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

MEOW!

WERE YOU IN YOUR SHRINE MAIDEN OUTFIT, BY ANY CHANCE?

I HANDED OUT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS ...

...SHOOK THEIR HANDS, AND TOOK PHOTOS WITH THEM.

THEN YOU SUDDENLY TOOK MY HAND AND LED ME TO THE CLUB ROOM...

THEN YOU TOLD ME TO GET IN THE BROOM CLOSET...

...AND SAID YOU'D BE WAITING FOR ME, SO TO JUST DO WHAT YOU SAID.

YOU MADE ME CHANGE CLOTHES IN A HURRY...

I DIDN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND, BUT I DID IT.

I BET ASAHINA THE ELDER KNEW THIS AHEAD OF TIME.

THE PROBLEM IS, WHY AM I PLAYING A PART IN THIS?

PER-MISSION TO USE MY TPDD WAS GRANTED IMMEDI-ATELY.

IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE WAITING FOR MY REQUEST.

KON (KNOCK)

KON

KYON-KUN, OPEN UP!

I'M GLAD ASAHINA'S CHEERED UP A LITTLE...

NOW WHO CAN I COUNT ON...?

I BROUGHT CAKE!

WANT SOME, SHAMI?

...FOR A WHOLE WEEK?

BUT... BEING ALONE WITH NAGATO IS KIND OF...

YES.

SHE'S GOT AN EXTRA ROOM, AND I'M SURE SHE'LL LET YOU STAY FOR A WEEK.

YOU'LL BE FINE WITH HER.

WE'RE GOING TO NAGATO'S HOUSE?

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL HOW KOIZUMI'S AGENCY WOULD TREAT A TIME TRAVELER.

IF I TRIED TO HIDE YOU AT MY PLACE, WE'D BE IN TROUBLE IF HARUHI FOUND YOU.

UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE YOU CAN GO ON YOUR OWN, THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION.

I KNOW THAT, BUT...

...I DON'T THINK NAGATO WILL ENJOY MY STAYING WITH HER VERY MUCH.

HUH?

WHY NOT?

WELL... FINE, THEN.

IT IS FINE.

COME IN.

UM... EXCUSE US.

IT SEEMS WE'VE COME TO TROUBLE YOU AGAIN...

NAGATO'S CHARM IS SAYING THINGS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE WAY.

...ER, I MEAN, THAT THIS ASAHINA IS FROM EIGHT DAYS IN THE FUTURE, RIGHT?

HEY, NAGATO.

YOU KNOW THAT ASAHINA'S FROM THE FUTURE...

DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT THIS?

SHE SAYS I TOLD HER TO COME HERE...

APPARENTLY ASAHINA HERSELF DOESN'T KNOW WHY SHE CAME TO THIS TIME.

I KNOW.

CAN YOU DO THAT SYNCHRO-THING?

I SEE. WE WERE HOPING YOU'D KNOW SOME-THING...

I DO NOT.

CURRENTLY, I AM UNABLE TO SYNCHRONIZE WITH SELVES FROM EITHER FUTURE OR PAST SPACE-TIME CONTINUITIES.

I CANNOT.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SYNCHRONIZATION COULD CAUSE IRREGULARITIES IN MY AUTONOMOUS FUNCTIONING.

EXECUTION PREVENTION CODE WAS APPLIED.

WHA...

THE DATA OVERMIND ONLY CONCURRED.

IT WAS MY DECISION.

SO YOUR BOSS SEALED THAT ABILITY?

THE RELEASE CODE IS ENCRYPTED AND HELD BY A DIFFERENT HUMANOID INTERFACE.

I CANNOT RELEASE THE LOCK OF MY OWN VOLITION.

NOR DO I INTEND TO.

BY LOSING THE ABILITY TO SYNCHRONIZE, I HAVE GAINED THE RIGHT TO GREATER AUTONOMY.

YOU SHOULD ACT ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN JUDGMENT.

JUST AS I AM DOING.

SO IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FUTURE.

SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?

*NAGATO'S TALKING ABOUT SELF-DETERMINATION.*

*IS SHE... LECTURING ME?*

I AM CURRENTLY ABLE TO ACT ACCORDING TO MY OWN WILL.

I AM NOT CONSTRAINED BY THE FUTURE.

I HAVE DETERMINED THAT MY RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING MY FUTURE SELF IS CARRIED BY MY CURRENT SELF.

YOU ARE THE SAME.

THAT ...

...IS YOUR FUTURE.

IF THE FUTURE COULDN'T BE CHANGED...

...DID THAT MEAN THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO WAS GIVE UP?

I'M SURE NAGATO STRUGGLED.

THINGS HAD WOUND UP REALLY DIFFICULT...

...AND IF SOMEONE WAS TO BLAME, IT WAS ME, FOR NOT NOTICING THE CHANGE IN NAGATO.

—REQUESTING SYNCHRONIZATION.

—DENIED.

—I DO NOT WANT TO.

I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF OF THIS.

I'D DONE IT MYSELF.

I'D ALREADY GONE INTO THE PAST AND TOLD MYSELF THE SAME THING.

I DIDN'T TELL MYSELF WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE FORCED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO.

SHE HAD TO KNOW SHE WOULD DO WHATEVER SHE HAD TO.

SHE TRUSTED HERSELF.

I WISH YOU'D INCLUDE ASAHINA IN THAT STATE-MENT.

HE WAS VERY SUPPOR-TIVE OF YOU DURING THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN INCIDENT.

AND MAYBE KOIZUMI TOO.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

MY HIGHEST PRIORITY REMAINS THE SAFETY OF YOU AND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

OH..

I WILL PREPARE TEA.

.....

HEY, THAT LOOKS GOOD ON HER.

...I ALREADY KNOW HOW THIS WILL TURN OUT.

I MIGHT AS WELL GO ALONG WITH IT.

MY FUTURE SELF PASSED ME THE BATON!

this

OR...

...
DINNER?

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA 11 : END

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SLICE TOO FINELY... OKAY?

AT THE INTERSECTION OF XXXX AND YYYY, PROCEED SOUTH, UNTIL YOU FIND AN UNPAVED ALLEY.

○○町××番△△号にある
交差点を南に進むと 近くに
舗装されていない裏道があります。

PLEASE LEAVE THE OBJECT AT THAT INTERSECTION, AS DIRECTED ON THE MAP BETWEEN 6:12 AND 6:15 PM.

今日午後六時十二分から十五分まで
間、その裏道と市道が交差する地
以下の図の通りのものを置いて下

P.S. DO NOT FORGET TO BRING MIKURU ASAHINA WITH YOU.

P.S. 必ず朝比奈みくるとともに

THE NEXT DAY, THERE WAS ANOTHER ENVELOPE WAITING FOR ME.

NO DOUBT A MESSAGE FROM HER...

WHAT THE HECK?

TRAWBE
WITH JUST
© The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya III

WHAT KIND OF INSTRUC-TIONS ARE THESE ANYWAY?

THE SECOND PAGE WAS EVEN MORE INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE.

THE MESSAGE HAD TWO PAGES.

YESTER-DAY'S EXCHANGE WAS STILL FRESH IN MY MIND...

...I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE ASAHINA-SAN IT REFERRED TO WAS THE ONE CURRENTLY IN NAGATO'S APARTMENT.

I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND IT...

BUT...

GOOO (BUBBLE)

業務用 カレー

WHAT KIND OF ENEMY?

...I WILL PROTECT YOU AND HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

IN CASES OF ENEMY INTERFER-ENCE...

CAN: CURRY

OH, THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN THING...

THEY ONCE SEALED US IN A DIFFERENT DIMEN-SION.

GOOO

this

MACRO-SPACIAL COSMIC BEINGS UNRELATED TO THE DATA OVER-MIND.

...OF HARUHI SUZU-MIYA.

HOW-EVER, THEY HAVE NOW COME TO A REALI-ZATION ...

EACH KNEW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER, BUT THERE WAS NO CONTACT.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING WAS IMPOS-SIBLE.

GOOOOO ゴォォォォ

THEY EXIST IN A... PLACE...

...FAR-REMOVED FROM THE DATA OVERMIND.

TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA

NAPPING?

SO WHAT WAS YOUR BOSS DOING?

TA (CHOP)

TA

TA

TA

TA

ON THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO AVERT THE DANGER WITH MY OWN ABILITIES.

WASA (DUMP)

HOWEVER, I SENSED IT WAS A FORM OF COMMUNI-CATION.

A HUMANOID INTERFACE LIKE ME DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE DATA OVERMIND.

WASHA (SHRED)

this

IT IS SURMISED THAT THEY LIKEWISE ARE UNABLE TO UNDER-STAND OUR THINKING.

TODO (GLUG)

PO

THEY ARE UTTERLY UNLIKE US. IT IS IMPOS-SIBLE TO UNDER-STAND THEIR COGNITIVE PROCESS-ES.

YOU CALL THAT COMMUNI-CATION?

THEY JUST SEALED US AWAY!

SO THAT'S IT, THEN?

PERFECT DATA TRANSFER IS IMPOS-SIBLE.

SO WHAT DO THEY THINK OF HARUHI?

IT IS POSSIBLE.

YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THEY'VE ALREADY ...

ゴ" ト ゴ"ソ GOTO'Y (THUNK)

DOON (BAM)

...SOME CONTACT, THOUGH IMPERFECT, MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

HOW-EVER ...

...IF THEY WERE TO CONSTRUCT A HUMANOID INTERFACE LIKE ME...

OH, IT'S NOTHING.

REALLY, NOTHING ...

IT CAN'T BE...

WHAT IS IT?

AH...

OH, SO YOU DO KNOW ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF.

YOU ARE A GUEST.

PITA (STOP)

ヒョイ

OH!!

BUT I SHOULD HELP YOU WITH THE COOKING -!

TH-THANKS FOR THE FOOD...

EAT.

I'M GOING HOME TO-NIGHT.

I'LL COME BY AFTER SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW.

EH?

YOU'RE NOT STAYING HERE?

THAT WAS DELI-CIOUS. SO, I GUESS I'LL BE GOING ...

I KNOW YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS SOMEHOW.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASAHINA THE ELDER?

コクン KOKKUN (NOD)

IS THAT ALL RIGHT, NAGATO?

THINGS WILL WORK OUT, HONEST.

BUT SO WHAT?

I'D LIKELY BE IN MORE TROUBLE THAN I WAS NOW.

THE DAY WHEN NAGATO WILL BECOME A NORMAL STUDENT MIGHT BE CLOSE.

IF IT CAME TO THAT, I'D HAVE TO GET BY WITHOUT RELYING ON HER TOO MUCH.

POWER LIMITA-TION, HUH?

I REGRETTED IT, A LITTLE BIT.

THAT SHY LITTLE SMILE... IF IT COULD EXIST IN THIS WORLD, I WANTED IT TO.

HEY, HARUHI.

SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE NOTICED ANYTHING...

ABOUT SHAMISEN ...

HUH?

OH, UH...

HE'S OKAY.

HOW'S SHAMI-SEN DOING?

WAS SHE THAT WORRIED ABOUT HIM?

WHAT WAS THIS SUDDEN PERMIS-SIVENESS?

FINE, WHAT-EVER.

SO I CAN'T DO THE CLUB...

I HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE VET AGAIN TODAY.

IF YOU'VE GOT A GOOD REASON, I DON'T MIND.

WHAT KIND OF FACE IS THAT?

BECAUSE I STILL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT THE ASAHINA PROBLEM.

WE'LL BE WAITING.

NO, THIS EASY-GOING ATTITUDE IS DEFI-NITELY WEIRD.

BUT JUST THIS ONCE, I'M GRATE-FUL FOR IT.

I'LL COME VISIT HIM SOON.

TELL HIM I SAID TO GET WELL, OKAY?

IF HARUHI WAS LIKE THAT FOR HALF HER WAKING HOURS, THAT WAS FINE.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IT WAS ENOUGH TO PUT ME AT EASE.

I UNDER-STAND, THOUGH.

HARUHI'S MELAN-CHOLY WILL NOT LAST LONG.

SHE'S GOING TO GET US ALL WRAPPED UP IN A TREASURE HUNT SOON.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE.

HOW'S ASAHINA-SAN DOING?

GII (CREAK)

NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO DURING LUNCH.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD.

NO.

SHE'S NOT CAUSING ANY TROUBLE, IS SHE?

.....

"HOW" ...?

IT'S BECAUSE BOTH ASAHINA-SAN AND I ARE ALWAYS IN YOUR DEBT.

SHE'S BEING CONSID-ERATE.

HOW-EVER ...

...SHE IS UNEASY WHEN I AM THERE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IT IS MUTUAL.

...AND RELIED ON OTHERS.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN THE CAUSE OF PROBLEMS ...

BUT THE MAIN FACTION STILL LEADS.

THERE IS NOT COMPLETE CONSEN-SUS.

THEY'VE SUPPRESSED THE EXTREMIST FACTION, RIGHT?

SO WHAT'S YOUR BOSS UP TO?

ARE THERE OTHERS?

AND ASAKURA WAS THE EXTREMIST FACTION.

YES.

YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE MAIN FACTION, RIGHT?

FACTIONAL INFIGHTING, EH?

I... SEE...

SO FAR AS I AM AWARE...

...THERE IS THE MODERATE, THE REVOLUTIONARY, THE COMPROMISE, AND THE CONTEMPLATIVE.

I CANNOT TRANSMIT THE THOUGHTS OF OTHER FACTIONS.

BUT I AM HERE.

I WILL NOT LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASE.

*SO STRANGE ...*

*HER EVEN VOICE SOUNDED SO TRUSTWORTHY.*

UH... YES.

OOPS ...

IS YOUR KITTY OKAY?

OH, HI.

HEYA, KYON-KUN!

STILL, HAIR LOSS FROM STRESS?

I BET HE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH EXERCISE!

*BUT SHE LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME, SO...*

*THIS ASAHINA-SAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.*

IT WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL..

I'LL BET.

ONCE HE'S BETTER-

GOOO!

DO (THMP) DO DO DO DO

I BET IT'D BE GREAT EXERCISE!

WE GET FIELD MICE THERE ALL THE TIME!

YOU SHOULD BRING HIM OVER TO OUR GARDEN.

I ALREADY TOLD HARUHI.

I HAVE TO TAKE SHAMISEN TO THE VET.

KYON-KUN, ARE YOU COMING TO THE CLUB ROOM TODAY?

IT PAINED ME TO LIE, BUT...

YOU SHOULD STOP BY AND PET HIM.

OH, REALLY? I HOPE HE GETS WELL SOON.

I HAD TO GO ASK THE OTHER ASAHINA-SAN WHAT THE DAY'S PLAN WAS.

STILL, THIS WAS BAD FOR MY HEART.

SO AFTER SCHOOL...

GARA (SLIDE)

LET'S SEE, WHERE WAS IT ...?

A HAMMER AND...

CHA (CLACK)

...BEFORE I WENT TO MEET ASAHINA-SAN, I HAD TO PICK UP SOME THINGS AT HOME.

WELL, THERE'S NO POINT THINKING ABOUT IT...

ARE YOU SERIOUS, ASAHINA THE ELDER ...?

HARUHI PROBABLY FELT THE SAME WAY, AND KOIZUMI COULD AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

I DIDN'T MIND.

SO I WANT TO PROTECT NAGATO AND ASAHINA-SAN TOO.

COME WHAT MAY, NAGATO WOULD PROTECT US.

PI (BEEP)

PI

PI

BUT SOMEONE DIFFERENT IS WAITING FOR ME. IT FEELS NOVEL SOMEHOW.

SO HERE I AM AT NAGATO'S PLACE AGAIN.

Er, no.

I'll be right down.

It's me.

Did anything happen?

Yes?

...HERE IS THE APART-MENT KEY.

WOULD YOU RETURN IT TO NAGATO-SAN?

I BOR-ROWED SOME SHOES.

ALSO ...

OVER HERE!

UM... ABOUT THAT...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE STAYING FOR A WHILE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

...WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, IT SEEMS SHE JUST CAN'T RELAX.

HOW DO I PUT THIS ...?

NAGATO-SAN, SHE...

I JUST FEEL LIKE I SHOULD GET OUT OF NAGATO-SAN'S PLACE.

管理事務所の XXX-231-00

SIGN: SUPERINTENDENT

YES... IT'S JUST A FEELING, BUT...

OH, FOR REAL?

WHAT THE HECK?

I HEARD THE SAME LINE FROM NAGATO.

...I HAVE MY OWN ROOM, BUT...

WHEN I'M SLEEP-ING...

...IT FEELS LIKE SHE'S STANDING RIGHT BY MY BED LOOKING DOWN AT ME.

BUT SHE JUST SEEMS SO CONSCIOUS OF ME.

IT REALLY IS JUST A FEELING!

IT HAPPENED LAST MONTH TOO.

I HAD THE FEELING SHE'D BEEN STARING AT ME AS I SLEPT...

BUT IT'S VERY STRONG WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.

I DON'T GET THE SAME FEELING WHEN WE'RE ALL TOGETHER.

I DON'T THINK HER INTENTIONS ARE BAD, IT'S JUST ...

I KNOW, I KNOW.

YOU MAKE HER SOUND LIKE A GHOST.

WHAT IS THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?

!!!

IT'S LIKE SHE'S HUNG UP ON ME SOMEHOW.

IT'S JUST WHAT I FEEL.

LIKE I'M ALWAYS DOING, YOU KNOW?

LIKE DOING ALL KINDS OF CRAZY STUFF WITH YOU, KYON-KUN.

IT'S LIKE SHE WANTS TO BE LIKE ME.

SHE'S ALWAYS WATCHING OVER US.

BUT I'M ALWAYS THE ONE GETTING SAVED.

I WONDER IF THAT'S PART OF WHY SHE CHANGED THE PAST.

I THINK SHE MIGHT WANT TO BECOME LIKE ME IN A WAY.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT, IT MAKES SENSE.

WHAT I'M FEELING FROM HER, I MEAN.

THAT WOULDN'T BE HALF BAD

I THINK NAGATO-SAN KNOWS THIS ABOUT HERSELF TOO.

SO THAT'S WHY I DON'T THINK I SHOULD BE HERE.

IT MAKES THINGS DIFFICULT FOR HER.

*A PERSON WHO'S ALWAYS ACTING IN IGNORANCE.*

*A TIME TRAVELER WHOSE POSITION IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF HERS.*

*NAGATO'S IDEAL IS ASAHINA-SAN?*

SUCH IRONY.

ASAHINA-SAN SUFFERS HER OWN IGNORANCE, WHILE NAGATO KNOWS TOO MUCH...

AND IF SOMEONE PRESSES HER ABOUT IT, SHE'D JUST FEIGN IGNORANCE ...

NAGATO HAS HER OWN VIRTUES. IF SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT, IT WOULD BE HARD FOR HER.

ANYWAY, THERE'S SOME-THING I WANTED YOU TO LOOK AT.

A NEW LETTER SHOWED UP.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

OKAY, I UNDER-STAND.

I'LL SAY SOMETHING TO NAGATO.

WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO STAY LATER.

A DIRECTIVE CODE, A TOP-LEVEL ONE.

OH... THIS IS...

NO MATTER WHAT THE ORDER IS, IT ABSOLUTELY MUST BE CARRIED OUT.

IT'S THE HIGHEST-PRIORITY CODE WE USE.

I DON'T KNOW ...

BUT HAVING SEEN IT...

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?

THIS? THIS STUPID PRANK? REALLY?

WHAT A PAIN.

NOT THAT I UNDER-STOOD ANY OF IT.

THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE AROUND

I SUP-POSE SO.

WELL, BETTER GET TO IT.

SA (SHF)

18:12

AH, WHAT THE HECK— I'D DONE PLENTY OF THINGS I HADN'T UNDER-STOOD BEFORE.

OKAY.

KAPO (POP)

KAN

KAN

KAN (CLANK)

TA (DASH)

WE DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG...

...TO SEE...

...WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

BASA BASA (FLAP)

GAN (CLANG)

WHAT THE HELL!? AUGH, THAT HURT!!

GUAAH!

PROB-ABLY..

WHO WOULD DO THIS?

OWW!

THINK THAT'LL DO IT?

CRAP!

TA (DASH)

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UH, YEAH, THANK YOU.

HUH?

DO YOU NEED A HAND?

I COULD TELL THE GUY HAD TAKEN A SERIOUS SHOT.

HOW TER-RIBLE.

KAPO (POP)

I'D NEVER SEEN THE GUY BEFORE. HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN HIS TWENTIES.

I GOT WHAT I DESERVE.

I'VE BEEN KIND OF DEPRESSED, SO IT'S MY FAULT FOR KICKING IT SO HARD.

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

...INCIDEN-TALLY ...

YEAH, I GUESS. WHAT KIND OF NASTY LITTLE KID DOES THAT?

NO, I REALLY THINK IT'S THE FAULT OF WHATEVER JERK PUT THE CAN THERE.

...SHE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

UH... KINDA.

JUST TELL HIM WHATEVER.

I WAS STUMPED. WAS HE A GOOD PERSON?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

NO...

I REALLY WANTED SOMEONE TO TELL ME THE PURPOSE OF DOING THIS.

BECAUSE THIS WAS JUST KILLING MY CONSCIENCE.

CAN: CURRY

GOOOO (BUBBLE)

I GET THE FEELING IT'LL BE THE SAME TONIGHT.

CURRY AGAIN.

BY THE WAY, WHAT'D YOU HAVE FOR BREAK-FAST?

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA III : END

SEE YA

YEAH, NOTHING'S BROKEN

NO PROBLEM WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

THANKS YOU GUYS REALLY SAVED ME

ZOOM

THIS ASAHINA-SAN WAS INNOCENT

SO I HOPE IF HE EVER FINDS OUT THE TRUTH, HE'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO THANK FOR IT.

MMM

IS THAT ALL WE HAVE TO DO?

THIS WAS THE WORST POSSIBLE SITUATION WE COULD BE IN.

I COULD NOT ALLOW HARUHI OR THIS TIME PERIOD'S ASAHINA-SAN TO SEE US TOGETHER.

THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT RESTRICTION ON US.

SHAAAA (WHSHHH)

OUR EFFORTS HERE MAY BE REFLECTED IN THE FUTURE.

...THAT'S TRUE.

WE CAN'T BE CARELESS. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT GO WRONG.

BUT I NEVER SAW MYSELF OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.

SO IT SHOULD BE FINE.

UM, IS THIS...
YUP.
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE BESIDES NAGATO'S THAT'LL TAKE YOU IN.
TSURUYA-SAN WILL ALWAYS HELP YOU OUT.
B-BUT...
...WE CAN'T LET HER KNOW...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT. HERE, LISTEN...
ALL RIGHT...
HUH?
I DON'T THINK I'M GOOD ENOUGH AT ACTING TO!
PIN (DING) POON (DONG)
IT'LL BE FINE.
WH-WHA!?

KARAKORO (CLATTER)

KARAKORO

BUT I REALIZED THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT.

I BET IT WOULD.

IT'LL BE TOO HARD!

IF YOU ACTUALLY HAD TO ACT...

PA (FLASH)

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THIS HOUR?

GOLLY, JUST KYON AND MIKURU!?

I'M PRACTICALLY JEALOUS!

I WAS SURE SHE'D HELP US OUT WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING... HOPE-FULLY.

MY, DON'T YOU TWO MAKE A FINE COUPLE?

KARAKORO

KARAKORO

THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES ...

HARUNYAN'S NOT EVEN WITH YOU?

KORON (CLOP)

カラン (CLACK)

STILL, THIS IS SUPER-RARE!

I KNEW IT.

ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. YOU OKAY?

MIKURU?

バチ (WHIP)

HUH? WELL, I SUPPOSE, BUT...

じ (STARE)

COULD YOU LET ASAHINA-SAN STAY AT YOUR PLACE FOR A FEW DAYS?

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

EIGHT DAYS AT THE MOST.

FOR HOW LONG?

PHEW!

THANKS, YOU'RE A REAL LIFE-SAVER.

OH WELL, IT'S FINE.

THERE MUST BE SOME REASON FOR IT.

IT'S JUST A LITTLE STUDIO WHERE I SOMETIMES GO TO THINK ABOUT STUFF.

...SHE CAN JUST USE THE OUT-BUILD-ING.

SURE, I DON'T MIND.

OH, RIGHT ...

IT'S NICE AND QUIET!

YUP!

LIKE THE ONE YOU HAVE AT THE MOUNTAIN VILLA?

HOW WEIRD...

...SOMETHING SEEMS OFF ABOUT HER...

SFX: JIRO (STARE)
JIRO JIRO

じ
じ
じ

STILL...

...ASAHINA-SAN'S TWIN SISTER, MICHIRU ASAHINA!

GAKKOON (KATHNK)

...SHE'S...

ACTUALLY...

(SILENCE)

...SHE EXISTS.

MIKURU-CHAN DOESN'T KNOW...

THEY WERE SEPARATED AT BIRTH.

MICHIRU-CHAN!?

GABIIN (BZZZT)

TWIN!? SISTER!?

YUP.

HUH.

SO WHY'S SHE WEARING A NORTH HIGH UNIFORM?

UH...

HOW DO I SAY THIS ...?

KUDO

KUDO

KUDO

KUDO

KUDO (BLAB)

SO SHE GOT A UNIFORM ...

...BUT WOUND UP NOT BEING ABLE TO DO IT. THEN SHE BUMPED INTO ME...

...WANTED TO SNEAK INTO NORTH HIGH TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER SISTER.

MICHIRU-SAN, YOU SEE...

I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT...

IF SHE'S MIKURU'S SISTER, SHE'S PRACTI-CALLY MIKURU.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

PON (PAT)

THEN, AFTER THAT...

THANK YOU, SERIOUSLY.

ALSO, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP HER A SECRET FROM ASAHINA-SAN.

BUT OF COURSE!

IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE HUT AT YOUR VILLA.

YUP!

THIS WAS THE MODEL FOR THAT ONE, ACTUALLY!

WHOOOA!

SEE, THERE IT IS.

I'LL GO GET SOME TEA!

RIGHT, ENJOY YOUR-SELVES!

I'LL HAVE TO THANK TSURUYA-SAN TOO.

YES, THANK GOOD-NESS.

THIS SEEMS LIKE IT'LL WORK.

MICHIRU, WAS IT?

THAT'S A NICE NAME.

WHEW...

HER OLD SMILE HAD FINALLY RETURNED.

OH, YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.

THIS PLACE IS SO BIG AND ALL.

I'LL WALK YOU TO THE ENTRY-WAY!

HERE YOU GO!

WELL, THEN, I GUESS I'LL BE HEADING HOME SOON.

YES...

...WHEN I SAW HER LIKE THIS, SHE WAS LIKE AN ADORABLE FRENCH DOLL LEFT IN A SIMPLE HUT.

GOOD-BYE!

SHE'S NOT THE MIKURU I MET AT SCHOOL TODAY, IS SHE?

OR, LIKE, SHE'S NOT MIKURU BUT SHE SEEMS MIKURU-ISH.

HMM, SHE'S LIKE MIKURU AND YET NOT MIKURU.

BU (BFF)

KARAN (CLOP)

WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

THAT'S TRUE.

AH HA HA HA!

I ALREADY EX-PLAINED, SENPAI, SHE'S A TWIN.

HM, WELL ...

ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN, NAGATO— ABOUT THE SOS BRIGADE?

HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?

TSU-RUYA-SAN...

YEAH?

OR AT LEAST... NOT NORMAL.

JUST THAT THEY'RE KINDA... DIFFERENT.

NOT AS MUCH AS YOU, KYON-KUN.

BWA HA HA!

WHY IS THAT?

BUT YOU'RE NOT ASKING ANY PRYING QUESTIONS OR ANY-THING...

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.

BECAUSE YOU'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN, Y'KNOW?

SO WATCHING YOU GUYS IS A BLAST!

I JUST REALLY LIKE WATCH-ING PEOPLE HAVE FUN!

JUST WATCHING'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

...BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR MYSELF.

LIKE, I THINK MOVIES ARE SUPER-COOL...

...JUST DOING THAT FEELS REALLY GREAT.

WATCHING THEM OUT THERE, REALLY GIVING IT THEIR ALL...

BAN (WHAM)

SO I JUST DO THE STUFF I CAN DO!

BUT I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR IT MYSELF!

I LIKE BEING ABLE TO WATCH YOU GUYS FROM THE SIDE-LINES!

AND I LIKE MY POSITION.

I THINK HARU-NYAN UNDER-STANDS TOO.

FIVE PEOPLE IS JUST THE RIGHT NUMBER.

THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY IS RIDING ON YOUR SHOUL-DERS!

SO HANG IN THERE, KYON-KUN, BUDDY!

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL ALREADY.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD, Y'KNOW?

...MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS WATCH MIKURU'S BACK!

STILL...

HII (WHEEZE) HII

AH HA HA!

THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT I BET SHE'LL FORGIVE YOU.

HA-HA... ARE YOU SERI-OUS?

BUT NO FUNNY BUSINESS!

IF YOU'RE GONNA PLAY TRICKS, PLAY 'EM ON HARU-NYAN!

IN A WAY, SHE WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF HARUHI.

WHEN HARUHI SAW SOMETHING SHE THOUGHT WAS INTER-ESTING...

...SHE JUST HAD TO BUTT IN AND GIVE IT A TRY.

YOU'RE JUST WAITING IN THE STREET AT NIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO...

...AT THIS HOUR?

GOOD EVE-NING.

HEY, WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.

THESE DAYS, THEY NEVER CALL, THEY NEVER WRITE...

SHOULDN'T YOU BE OFF HUNTING CELESTIALS?

THIS IS ASAHINA-SAN'S AND MY PROBLEM.

I GUESS I DIDN'T WIN THE PARTI-CIPATION LOTTERY.

YOU SEEM TO BE UP TO SOME-THING INTER-ESTING AGAIN.

THOUGH IT'S TRUE THERE'S NO SAFER PLACE THAN HERE.

INCIDENTALLY, I CAN'T SAY I AGREE WITH YOUR INVOLVING TSURUYA-SAN IN THIS.

I KNOW THAT THERE ARE TWO ASAHINAS.

HOW DID YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO TSURUYA-SAN?

.....

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

NOT THAT IT WOULD'VE MATTERED.

OF COURSE I DIDN'T.

SURELY YOU DIDN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH.

TWINS, I SUPPOSE?

ORIGINALLY WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO ENCOUNTER HER AT ALL.

SHE'S ACTUALLY NOT RELATED TO THIS.

MY SUPERIORS HAVE WARNED ME NOT TO INTERFERE WITH TSURUYA.

OR HER BEING A SUB-STITUTE PLAYER IN OUR SANDLOT BASEBALL GAME?

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT TSURUYA-SAN BEING IN ASAHINA-SAN'S CLASS?

WHAT KIND OF "MIS-TAKE"?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S SUZUMIYA-SAN FOR YOU.

BUT THERE WAS A M.STAKE SOMEWHERE, AND WE CAME INTO CONTACT WITH HER.

THOSE ARE THE RULES BY WHICH THE AGENCY AND THE TSURUYA CLAN CONDUCT THEIR RELATION-SHIP.

WE DO NOT INTERFERE WITH HER.

AND IN EXCHANGE, SHE IS NO MORE INVOLVED WITH US THAN NECESSARY.

AND TSURUYA-SAN IS THE HEIR TO THE DYNASTY.

THEY REMAIN ENTIRELY INDIFFERENT TO EVERYTHING WE DO.

TO BE MORE CLEAR, THE TSURUYA CLAN IS AMONG THE MANY SPONSORS OF THE AGENCY.

HOWEVER, OUR ACTIVITIES MAY BE IRRELEVANT TO THEM...

SHE'S AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

SHE COMMUTES TO THE SAME SCHOOL WE DO, AND SHE LIVES IN A BIG HOUSE...

DON'T JUST CASUALLY DROP A CRAZY BACKSTORY LIKE THAT.

...WHAT IS SHE?

TSURUYA-SAN... I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO KNOW...

BUT THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US.

MEANWHILE, SHE MIGHT BE FIGHTING THE FORCES OF EVIL SOMEWHERE.

*JUST LIKE HARUHI IS A MYSTERY TO THEM?*

*...WERE THERE PARTS OF THE PAST THAT EVEN TIME TRAVELERS DIDN'T KNOW?*

*BUT WHAT A COINCI-DENCE ...*

*THAT WAS STILL THE BEST WAY TO THINK ABOUT HER.*

*THE SOS BRI-GADE'S FAITH-FUL ADVIS-ER.*

WILL THINGS WORK OUT WITH ASAHINA-SAN?

KOIZUMI.

YOU SEEM PRETTY RELAXED.

THE FUTURE IS ACTUALLY QUITE A FUZZY THING.

THEY MAY BE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH THE PAST, BUT ARE YOU SO SURE PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE ARE IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION?

THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED, YOU SEE.

KNOW... THE FUTURE?

IF YOU'D KNOWN THE FUTURE IN ADVANCE, THAT IS.

YOU COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING FROM THE PAST.

BUT IF YOU KNOW PAST HISTORY AND CAN TRAVEL THROUGH IT, YOU CAN CHANGE IT.

JUST LIKE I'VE DONE.

...LIKE ONES ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE?

SO HOW CAN WE SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT THERE AREN'T MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD SUPER-HUMANS...

I AM AN ESPER.

ALBEIT A SLIGHTLY LIMITED ONE.

YOU SON OF A...

BUT THERE'S A PURPOSE TO HER IGNORANCE.

ASAHINA-SAN IS SURELY THE SAME.

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I DON'T KNOW.

I'M AN UNDERLING, AFTER ALL.

THAT'S PROBABLY THEIR AIM.

WHICH IS WHY THE AGENCY DOESN'T GET IN-VOLVED.

IN A WAY, YOU COULD SAY SHE'S A PERFECT TIME RESIDENT.

I DON'T FEEL ANY THREAT FROM HER AT THE MOMENT, BUT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I'M SURE SHE'LL FOLLOW HER ORDERS.

IT'S A DEFENSIVE MEASURE ON THE PART OF THE FUTURE.

IT WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC IF THE FUTURE COULD BE GUESSED AT FROM HER EXISTENCE.

I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.

IF I HAD TO SUM IT UP, I'D SAY WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE.

SO, WHAT ...?

YOU GUYS OPPOSE ASAHINA-SAN'S PEOPLE?

JUST AS PEOPLE, WHEN THINGS LIKE "DUTY" AND "MISSION" NO LONGER MATTER.

I HOPE THE DAY COMES WHEN WE'LL BE FRIENDS ON A PERFECTLY EQUAL FOOTING AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO LAUGH ABOUT THE PAST.

BUT FOR NOW YOU'RE JUST TEMPORARY ALLIES?

HA-HA.

SEE YOU IN THE CLUB ROOM.

.....

WHAT A COMPLI-CATED GUY.

GACHA (CLICK)

ガチャ

A MESSAGE GIVEN TO ME BY (THE FUTURE) ASAHINA-SAN...

BUT THERE WAS ONE MORE THING I HAD TO PASS ON.

WELCOME HOME!

IT FELT LIKE I'D BEEN RUNNING ERRANDS ALL DAY.

I GAVE HER THE HIGH-LIGHTS.

SHE PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW THEM.

HEY, NAGATO. IT'S ME.

I'LL KEEP IT BRIEF.

ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN...

GACHA

I ALSO HAD TO LET HER KNOW I'D MOVED ASAHINA TO TSURUYA'S PLACE.

Under-stood.

That is for the best.

WE JUST DECIDED TO RELY ON YOU, THEN DECIDED TO LEAVE, WITHOUT EVER ASKING HOW YOU FELT.

I JUST FELT BAD FOR YOU, IS ALL.

REALLY?

THAT'S A RELIEF.

Why?

I DO NOT WISH TO BECOME LIKE HER.

VALID?

HOWEVER, HER SENTIMENT TO THAT EFFECT IS VALID.

NEED-LESS WORRY.

I CAN UNDERSTAND HER POSITION.

IF I WERE IN HER POSITION, I MIGHT HAVE COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.

...I THINK SO

SO THAT MEANS

...YOU CAN IMAGINE BEING IN HER POSITION?

WORRYING ABOUT YOU IN THE WAY THAT SHE IS?

BOFU (WHUMP)

PROBABLY MORE THAN EITHER OF THEM REALIZED.

IT SEEMED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ME TO WORRY.

THE ALIEN AND THE TIME TRAVELER HAD COME TO A MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING.

PI (BEEP)

WE EX-CHANGED A FEW MORE WORDS, AND THEN I HUNG UP.

HA (GASP)

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHAMISEN?

IF I KNEW THAT MUCH, I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK.

I'D FORGOTTEN TO ASK.

HOW MUCH LONGER DID I HAVE TO LIE ABOUT SHAMISEN'S RECUPERA-TION?

I MANAGED NOT TO MAKE ANY MORE PHONE CALLS THAT NIGHT.

I COULD'VE CALLED TSURUYA-SAN, BUT AFTER MY CONVERSATION WITH KOIZUMI...

THE FUTURE ASAHINA-SAN DIDN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.

-KASHA! (CLACK)

ANOTHER ONE?

ALL RIGHT, THEN...

SO I JUST HAVE TO READ THIS AND DECIDE WHAT TO DO, RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL?

MORE NONSENSE ...

山へ行ってください。
そこに目立つ形をした石が
あります。その石を西へ向かって
約三メートル移動させてください。
場所は、その朝比奈みくるが
知っています。
夜は真っ暗で危険ですから
るうちがいいと思います。

*NOTE: GO TO THE MOUNTAINS. THERE YOU WILL SEE AN ODDLY-SHAPED ROCK. MOVE IT APPROXIMATELY THREE METERS WEST. YOUR MIKURU ASAHINA WILL KNOW THE PLACE. IT WILL BE VERY DARK AFTER NIGHTFALL, SO TRY TO FINISH DURING THE DAYLIGHT.*

*JUST SPARE ME THE SHOCKING PUNCH LINE FOR ONCE...*

GUESS I'M USED TO IT BY NOW...

*MORE OBSCURE DIRECTIONS... WHICH MEANT THAT I'D BE A MEMBER OF THE GO-HOME CLUB AGAIN TODAY.*

**The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya IV : END**

山へ行っ
そこに
ありま
約三
場所
知っ

石
ROCK

MORE NONSENSE ...

WHAT THE HELL?

OH, RIGHT, THE TREASURE HUNT.

GUESS THAT MEANS HARUHI'S GOING TO BE SPRINGING INTO ACTION AGAIN SOON...

© The Intrigues of Haruhi Suzumiya V

GUESS SHE HASN'T REBOOTED YET.

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'VE BEEN SO GLOOMY LATELY.

THAT'S GOOD.

AH, YEAH. HE'S DOING OKAY.

HOW'S SHAMISEN?

WHAT ABOUT YOU? COMING TO THE CLUB ROOM TODAY?

AND TOMOR-R—

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? I'VE JUST GOT STUFF ON MY MIND...

YEAH.

THAT'S PROB-ABLY BEST.

CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM TO MY SISTER.

I'M TAKING CARE OF HIM AGAIN TODAY.

SHAMISEN'S STILL PRETTY LONELY.

I WANT TO PLAY WITH HIM WHEN HE'S BETTER AGAIN!

BEING SICK IS LONELY. MAKE SURE YOU STAY WITH HIM UNTIL HE'S RECOVERED.

H-HOW NICE OF YOU...

OH, THAT?

DOON (DOOM)

HUH? DON'T BE DISGUST-ING.

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

ガクーン (GLOOOM)

GAKUN (GLOOOM)

YO, KYON.

YOU'VE GOT IT MADE, MAN.

MAN, OH MAN.

SHE'S REALLY OFF.

MY, OH MY.

SHUT UP.

PIKUN (TWITCH)

I GUESS HE AND HIS GIRL-FRIEND SPLIT UP.

SO THAT'S WHY HE'S DOWN.

FROM WHAT I HEARD, SHE WASN'T VERY SERIOUS ABOUT YOU.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

RIGHT THERE WITH YA, PAL.

KNOCK IT OFF!

WE WERE ALL IN THIS TOGETH-ER.

I WAS JUST HAPPY THAT MY FRIEND WAS BACK AT THE STARTING LINE WITH ME.

GUESS I'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT

BUT I'M NOT TOTALLY HEART-LESS.

PART OF ME THOUGHT HE DESERVED IT.

KUWA (BLAB)

I MEAN, GIVEN THE REASON YOU WERE GOING OUT...

ENOUGH!

SPEAK NO MORE!

THE IDEA THAT HARUHI'S MALAISE CAME FROM THE SAME ROOT AS TANIGUCHI'S,

IN OTHER WORDS, A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

A STRANGE NOTION SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO ME.

.....

COULDN'T BE.

HEKKUSHI (AHCHOO)

FIRST, I HAD TO DEAL WITH THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

I WAS SURE HARUHI'D HAVE CHEERED UP BY THEN.

ACCORDING TO (MICHIRU) ASAHINA-SAN, THE TREASURE HUNT WAS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

YOU CHANGED YOUR CLOTHES.

KYON-KUN?

I BORROWED THEM FROM TSURUYA-SAN.

THEY LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

HA (GASP)

UH, I MEAN, NEVER MIND!

OH, GOOD-NESS, HARDLY.

THE SLEEVES AND HEM ARE TOO LONG, AND THE CHEST IS TIGHT...

ER...THE MOUN-TAIN?

ASA-HINA-SAN.

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO NEXT.

I SHOULD KNOW THE PLACE...?

AN ODDLY-SHAPED ROCK...

I DO HAVE AN IDEA.

I THINK THIS IS WHERE WE WENT FOR THE TREASURE HUNT.

BUT... WHY?

ASAHINA-SAN...

THESE DIRECTIONS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, I'M SURE...

...BUT ISN'T IT STRANGE?

WE DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING ON THE TREASURE HUNT, DID WE?

WE'D JUST HAVE TO GO HAVE A LOOK.

SORRY, HARUHI, BUT WE'VE GOT SOME LOCATION SCOUTING TO DO AHEAD OF YOU.

BUT, NO...

TH-THAT'S... I WONDER ...

KYU (SQUEAK) KYU KYU キュッ キュッ キュッ

MAYBE I'LL REMEMBER SOMETHING WHEN WE GET THERE...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING!

N-NOTHING AT ALL!

THE TSURUYA CLAN'S PRIVATE MOUNTAIN WAS EAST OF NORTH HIGH.

IT WAS MORE OF A LARGE HILL THAN A MOUNTAIN AND DIDN'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF ALTITUDE.

IF YOU REALLY SQUINTED, IT DID SORT OF LOOK LIKE A FORGOTTEN BURIAL MOUND.

THERE WAS ONLY A STEEP, NARROW ANIMAL TRAIL, SO IF THE BEAR WANTED TO GO OVER THE MOUNTAIN, HE WASN'T GONNA HAVE AN EASY TIME OF IT.

OVER HERE.

YES. WE CLIMBED UP FROM HERE

ZA

TSURUYA-SAN SAID IT WAS OKAY.

OH, IT WAS A FEW DAYS AGO THAT SHE TOLD ME...

ZA (RUSTLE)

I WONDER IF WE SHOULD JUST BE CLIMBING UP SOMEBODY'S PRIVATE MOUNTAIN.

ZA

JUST THAT WE DID A TREASURE HUNT AND A CITY PATROL.

I CAN'T TELL YOU... UM, VERY MUCH.

ZA

I WISH YOU'D TELL ME A LITTLE MORE.

ZA

RELA-TIVELY SPEAKING, THAT'S TOMOR-ROW, SO...

ZA

ZA

YOU SEEM KIND OF NER-VOUS.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT FORGETTING SOMETHING ELSE?

WHAT ABOUT THE HARUHI-SPON-SORED LOTTERY?

OH, YES, THAT TOO.

HA WA WA...

OR, WELL...

PROB-ABLY.

TH-THAT'S CLASSIFIED!

ASAHINA THE ELDER > "MICHIRU" ASAHINA > ASAHINA THE YOUNGER, I GUESS.

I'M SORRY ...

IT SEEMED LIKE THIS ASAHINA-SAN WAS HIDING SOMETHING TOO.

LET'S JUST GET THIS MISSION DONE BEFORE DARK.

NO, NO, IT'S FINE.

I'M SURE I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

WE HEADED INTO THE DENSE FOREST.

NORMALLY I WOULD'VE TAKEN THE LEAD, BUT...

HO!

WE CLIMBED FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES, WHICH CAME WITH SOME UNEXPECTED PERKS.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES...

HERE... WHEW... IT'S HERE.

IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE IT HAD BEEN CLEARED RECENTLY.

IT SEEMED LIKE A PERFECT PLACE TO TAKE A BREAK.

HUH.

WE DUG ALL OVER THE PLACE, BUT THE STONE WAS HERE.

A GOURD-SHAPED ROCK... A ROCK?

I THINK THAT'S THE ROCK FROM THE MESSAGE.

IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THE DRAWING.

BUT, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

!!

!!

!!

DON'T KNOW IF IT LOOKS "JUST LIKE" THE PICTURE ...

THAT'S ONE BIG ROCK.

GOKURI (GULP)

ゴクリ

MOVE THIS ROCK THREE METERS, EH?

GU

HI

AHNGH!

.....

UGH, IT'S FREAKIN' HEAVY.

GU (PULL)

WHAT NEXT?

OVER HERE.

IT DOES LOOK KINDA GOURD-ISH...

BOKOO (POP)

HRNGH!

HRK!

URRRR-RRRGH...

...IS NOT A ROCK. IT'S A BOULDER.

THIS...

YES, THERE...

RIGHT AROUND THERE.

DOES HARUHI BY ANY CHANCE HAPPEN TO MAKE US DIG UNDER THIS ROCK?

YES, SHE DOES.

...IT DOES KIND OF STAND OUT LIKE THIS.

TOTALLY FUTILE

SO WHAT WAS THE POINT OF DOING THIS?

NOT THAT I COULD ASK.

BUT WE DON'T FIND ANY-THING...

IT'S TRUE.

I GUESS WE'LL JUST DO WHAT WE CAN.

WAIT, THIS ROCK ...

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EXPOSED SIDE AND THE SIDE THAT WAS BURIED.

PA (PAT)

PA (PAT)

I'D HAVE TO ASK HER.

I WASN'T GOING TO ACCEPT THIS KIND OF UNI-LATERAL DIRECTION AGAIN.

"MICHIRU" ASAHINA DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE POINT OF ALL OF THIS WAS.

PARARA (SCATTER)

ONLY ASAHINA THE ELDER KNEW THE TRUTH.

DON

DON (STOMP)

OH... RAIN?

GUESS WE BETTER GET GOING.

YES, LET'S.

...BUT TOILING IN IGNORANCE WAS A DIFFICULT THING.

IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WITH THE CAN PRANK EARLIER...

PA (POP)

YOU MUST BE FREEZING! INTO THE BATH WITH YOU!

HEY, WELCOME BACK!

WHOA!

YOU TOO, KYON-KUN!

WE'LL TAKE ONE TOGETHER!

HARU-NYAN ASKED FOR THIS.

WOULD YOU GIVE IT TO HER?

BY THE WAY...

YOU JUST TAKE CARE OF ASAHINA—MICHIRU-SAN, I MEAN.

RIGHT, RIGHT.

CHA (CHAK)

I FOUND IT WHEN I WAS POKING AROUND IN THE STORE-HOUSE.

I FIGURED WHY NOT GIVE IT TO HARU-NYAN.

WHAT'S THIS?

A TREASURE MAP.

IT'S TREASURE, AFTER ALL—

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO JUST GIVE IT TO HER?

SURE, SURE, WHY NOT!

IT'D BE A PAIN TO GO ALL THE WAY OUT THERE AND DIG IT UP!

OUR ANCESTOR LOVED PRANKS, Y'SEE...

HE WAS PROBABLY JUST TRYING TO PULL ONE OVER ON HIS DESCEN-DANTS.

THERE'S EITHER NOTHING THERE OR SOMETHING TOTALLY POINTLESS.

GOT IT...

GOT THAT?

MAKE SURE-SURE YOU GIVE IT TO HARU-NYAN, 'KAY?

SURELY THE FORMER.

ALL RIGHT.

OH...

I'LL BE GOING, ASAHINA-SAN.

THIS TREASURE HUNT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF HANG-UP FOR HER...

WAS THERE REALLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION?

SHE SEEMS OFF... WONDER WHY.

?

HERE WE GO...

PAKA COPEND

I TOOK A DEEP BREATH BEFORE OPENING MY SHOE LOCKER.

THE NEXT DAY...

#4

#3, #4... #6?

#3

#6

THEY'RE NUMBERED.

I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT!

BAN (BAM)

はん!

HURRY UP AND SHOW IT TO ME!

BIKU (FLINCH)

KYON!

WHAT THE ...?

DON (BAM)

IT'S OB-VIOUS, ISN'T IT?

THE SUPER-AWESOME THING!

CRAP.

WHAT... DO YOU MEAN?

GUSHA (CRUMPLE)

HEY, KNOCK IT OFF ...!

WHA ...?

HYO! (DODGE)

BA (WHAP)

UGH, YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING!

H-HEY... C'MON...

OH, THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS LOOKING FOR.

I WAS GONNA MAKE IT A SURPRISE AFTER SCHOOL ...

KYUPON (POP)

HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TSURUYA-SAN WAS THINKING ... SHE SHOULD'VE JUST GIVEN IT STRAIGHT TO ME.

KARARA (CLATTER)

I JUST HAPPENED TO ASK.

I GUESS HE'S FEELING BETTER, THEN. GOOD FOR HIM.

YOU TOOK SHAMISEN FOR A WALK, RIGHT?

I GOT A CALL FROM TSURUYA-SAN LAST NIGHT.

WHERE?

THIS IS DEFINITELY A TREASURE MAP!

LOOK AT THIS!

I HAD TO ADMIRE TSURUYA-SAN'S TALE.

"FUSAUEMON TSURUYA, 1702, FIFTEENTH YEAR OF THE GENROKU ERA."

"THOSE OF MY DESCENDANTS WHO WOULD SEEK IT, DIG YE HERE.

"UPON THIS MOUNTAIN IS BURIED SOME-THING RARE.

ALL I CAN TELL IS THAT IT'S SOMEWHERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN.

I CAN'T READ THIS AT-ALL.

IT DOESN'T SAY.

SO WHERE ON THE MOUNTAIN IS IT BURIED?

OPERATION STEAM-ROLLER!

BUT THAT'S OKAY.

WE'LL JUST START DIGGING, AND EVENTUALLY WE'LL GET TO IT.

BOW!

STAND!

I HATE THIS ANCESTOR ALREADY.

SFX: GATA (CLATTER) GATA GATA

AND YOU BETTER ACT SURPRISED TOO.

LIKE YOU JUST HEARD ABOUT IT FOR THE FIRST TIME!

WE'RE MEETING AFTER SCHOOL IN THE CLUB ROOM, GOT IT?

HEY, SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

I CAN RECOMMEND AN EXCELLENT ANIMAL HOSPITAL IF NEED BE.

HOW'S SHAMISEN THE FIRST DOING?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

JUST SPIT IT OUT

...THEY'D HAVE TO BE PEOPLE THAT DON'T YET EXIST ON THIS EARTH.

AS FAR AS PEOPLE OUTSIDE MY NETWORK OF CONNECTIONS GO...

I'M ACTUALLY RATHER WELL-CONNECTED.

OKAY!

MIKURU-CHAN, TEA!

THAT'S RIGHT!

I BELIEVE YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A MEETING.

UHHHH...

UH, NO...

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE WE TOOK HIM TO SUCH A COLD PLACE DURING WINTER VACATION ...

HOW'S THE KITTY-CAT DOING?

KITTIES ARE JUST SO CUTE!

YOU HAVE TO LET ME PLAY WITH HIM!

REALLY !?

PAAAA (BEAM)

ぱあああ

SHAMI-SEN'S BEEN DOING BETTER.

BAN (WHAM)

EVERY-BODY, THE GUEST OF HONOR'S ARRIVED!

WE'VE BEEN WAIT-ING!

HERE I AM!

SURE, ANYTIME!

...WHERE WE KEEP A BUNCH OF OLD STUFF WE DON'T NEED.

IT WAS IN THE FAMILY STORE-ROOM, SEE...

BUT MY ANCESTOR SAID IN HIS WILL THAT WE COULDN'T EVER DO THAT.

...TO TURN THAT MOUNTAIN OVER TO THE STATE.

THEY'VE TRIED TO GET US...

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

REST IN PEACE...

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GETTING AT, ANCESTOR GUY!

THAT'S HOW WHAT IS?

GABIIN (BOING)

OH MAN, THAT'S IT!

IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THE TREA-SURE BURIED THERE!

IF WE DON'T HURRY, SOMEBODY MIGHT BEAT US TO IT.

WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR THAT TREASURE.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACT SURPRISED AT THIS.

OOO (WHOOO)

MEET AT THE USUAL STATION, TOMORROW AT 9 A.M.!

WELL, WELL ...

THIS COULD INDEED BE FASCINATING, FROM AN ANTHROPO-LOGICAL AND ARCHAEO-LOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

DO YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT?

I'D BETTER MAKE SOME LUNCH-ES!

TOMORROW? MOUNTAIN CLIMBING?

WHA...? TREA-SURE HUNT-ING?

EXCEPT FOR HER.

I'M KINDA BUSY TOMORROW.

ANYWAY, I CAN'T HELP YOU OUT WITH THE DIGGING!

ALTHOUGH IF IT'S SOMETHING PERSONAL, WE'LL HAVE TO HANG ONTO IT.

IF YOU FIND ANYTHING WORTH MONEY, I'LL TOTALLY GIVE YOU GUYS NINETY PERCENT.

I DIDN'T DOUBT HER. AND YET...

SHE'S KEEPING HER PROMISE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING TO THIS ASAHINA-SAN.

IN SPITE OF THAT— NO, GIVEN THAT...

...HER ACTIONS ARE HARD TO UNDER-STAND.

IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S TRYING NOT TO GET INVOLVED MORE THAN NECES-SARY...

AND THEN THERE'S THE INFORMATION I GOT FROM KOIZUMI.

SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO THROW HARUHI A BONE.

MAYBE SHE'S JUST FINDS IT AMUSING?

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY QUES-TION...

IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO BE MORE INVOLVED, NOT LESS.

KOIZUMI HAD NEVER GIVEN HER A SIGNIFICANT LOOK.

HE'D PROBABLY BEEN ORDERED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH TSURUYA, BUT...

...WOULDN'T HER SHOWING UP ALL THE TIME PUT HIM IN A BAD POSITION?

OR MAYBE ...

HE'D SAID THAT IF HE HAD TO WEIGH THE AGENCY AGAINST NAGATO...

...THAT HE'D CHOOSE US OVER THEM.

THOSE WORDS ARE STILL IN EFFECT, KOIZUMI!

BUT THAT WAS BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND THE FAMILY...

...NOT KOIZUMI AND TSURUYA SPECIFICALLY ...

THERE WAS SOME KIND OF UNWRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN KOIZUMI'S AGENCY AND THE TSURUYA CLAN...

ASATTE, ASATTE,
SATE WA NANKIN
TAMASUDARE!
THAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

#3 #6 ?

THE NEXT INSTRUC-TIONS... #3, #4, #6?

DID THAT MEAN THE LAST TWO WERE #1 AND #2?

SO THAT MADE THE FIRST ONE #0. WHERE WAS #5?

ANYWAY, TIME TRAVELERS SURE DID LIKE LEAVING NOTES IN SHOE LOCKERS...

...I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED ONE BIT IF SHE'D JUST HANDED THEM DIRECTLY TO ME.

宝探し

MAKE SURE TO WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES!

LET'S SEE, WE'LL NEED SHOVELS ...

BOARD: TREASURE HUNT OPERATION

ALSO, LUNCHES. MIKURU— THAT'S YOUR JOB!

WE'LL ASSEMBLE TOMORROW MORNING AT THE USUAL STATION!

A LANTERN, A MAP... WHAT ABOUT SIGNAL FLARES?

WE'LL NEED A COMPASS IN CASE ANYTHING GOES WRONG...

*JUST BECAUSE HARUHI WAS BACK TO NORMAL...*

*WHY DID I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER SUDDENLY?*

IS THIS ASAHINA-SAN?

I GOT MORE LETTERS TODAY.

鶴屋

HELLO, KYON-KUN?

ANYWAY, IT WAS ALWAYS BETTER WHEN PEOPLE CHEERED UP, WHAT-EVER THE REASON.

NAME PLATE: TSURUYA

OH, ALL RIGHT.

I THINK I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...

Since things are gonna get busy tomor-row...

...I'll be heading over.

I want to talk about them, so...

YOU WERE ACTING A LITTLE WEIRD, I THOUGHT ...

I TOLD YOU WE DID ANOTHER CITY PATROL ON SATURDAY, DIDN'T I?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TSURUYA-SAN WAS AMAZINGLY GOOD AT NOT GIVING ANYTHING ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN AWAY.

ACTING WEIRD ON PURPOSE SOUNDED TIRING.

HOW LONG'S POOR MICHIRU GONNA BE COOPED UP IN HERE, ANYWAY?

THANKS AGAIN FOR THE FAVOR.

A FEW MORE DAYS, PROB-ABLY

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE.

KYA (SQUEAL)

SHE'S ALWAYS WONDER-ING HOW MUCH SHE SHOULD SAY— IT'S SO CUTE!

I THOUGHT YOU'D SHOW UP!

SHE CAN STAY AS LONG AS SHE WANTS, REALLY!

SHE LOOKS SO FRESH IN THAT KIMONO JACKET!

HEY, THERE.

OH, KYON-KUN...

OH YES, PLEASE. THANKS!

IS TEA OKAY?

COULD ASAHINA-SAN AND I SPEAK IN PRIVATE?

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE.

SHE DIDN'T NEED TO BE SO ENTHU-SIASTIC ABOUT IT...

HAVE FUN...

I'LL JUST GET CHANGED, THEN...

I GUESS SO.

JUST THE TWO OF YOU? IN THIS ROOM?

NOTE: SATURDAY, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW: GO SOUTH TO THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE IN [XXXX] COUNTY, [XXXX] WARD BY DUSK. THERE, IN FRONT OF THE BRIDGE, YOU WILL SEE SOME PANSIES. PICK UP THE OBJECT THAT'S BEEN DROPPED THERE AND SEND IT ANONYMOUSLY TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. THE OBJECT IS A PORTABLE STORAGE DEVICE.

FIRST, #3.

明後日、土曜日。
南に向かい、夕方までに
＊＊町　＊＊丁目にある
歩道橋に行ってください。
歩道橋の手前にパンジーの
植え込みがあります。
そこに落ちているものを拾い、
以下の住所に匿名で郵送
してください。
落ちているものとは、小型の
記憶媒体です。

HERE ARE THE NOTES.

THIS ASAHINA-SAN DEFINITELY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE NOTES.

IT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE AN ACT.

OH, MY...

I WONDER WHAT IT MEANS...

IN THE ROW OF SAKURA TREES THAT LINE THE RIVER, THERE IS A BENCH THAT YOU AND ASAHINA SHOULD KNOW WELL.

川沿いの桜並木、
あなたと朝比奈みくるがよく
知っているベンチがありますね。
日曜日。
午前十時四十五分までに
そこに行き、午前十時五十分
までに川に亀を投げ込んで
ください。
亀の種類はお任せします。
小さいもののほうがいいでしょう。

ON SUNDAY, GO THERE BY 10:45 AM, AND BY 10:50 AM, THROW A TURTLE INTO THE RIVER. ANY SPECIES IS FINE. A SMALLER TURTLE WILL BE MORE CONVENIENT.

よろしくね。

OH...

TURTLE: HI, THERE! / RABBIT: WAIT!!

NOW HERE'S #4.

A TURTLE -?

よろしくね

まて

I HAVE NO IDEA.

.....

OTHER-WISE...

BUT WE MUST DO IT.

WE MAY NOT UNDER-STAND THE REASONS YET, BUT THERE IS A PURPOSE TO ALL OF THIS.

AND THERE BEING TWO OF THEM IS EVEN MORE MEANING-LESS.

THAT'S RIGHT— OTHERWISE, HER BEING HERE IS MEANING-LESS.

AND IT'S PROBABLY THE LAST ONE...

IT SEEMS TO BE MEANT FOR ME ALONE.

I'LL SKIP SHOWING HER #6.

NO, YOU WERE THERE.

WE DREW STRAWS TO SPLIT INTO GROUPS.

WAS I ABSENT?

DOESN'T THAT CONFLICT WITH THESE DIREC-TIONS?

ANYWAY, ASAHINA-SAN... YOU SAID WE WERE ON CITY PATROL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY RIGHT?

SUNDAY MORNING WAS THE SAME...

WAIT ...

...AND THE AFTER-NOON WAS LIKE THIS.

KYU (SQUEAK)

ON SATURDAY MORNING, IT WAS SPLIT UP LIKE THIS...

UPPER: MIKURU, HARUHI, KOIZUMI / LOWER: NAGATO, KYON

DURING THOSE TIMES WHEN I'LL BE FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIONS ...

...I'M ALWAYS PAIRED UP WITH NAGATO.

DID YOU NOTICE? WE'RE PROBABLY THINKING THE SAME THING.

OR MAYBE SHE HELPS IF WE ASK HER TO...

...AND THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT.

I WONDER IF NAGATO KNOWS OUR CIRCUM-STANCES.

I DON'T KNOW...

I'LL ASK HER TO HELP.

ALL RIGHT, I UNDER-STAND.

I WON-

...

...BUT IT'LL BE BAD IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN LIKE I REMEMBER IT, RIGHT?

I AGREE.

SHE'LL UNDER-STAND.

I KNOW IT FEELS LIKE CHEATING, BUT WE'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT PROPERLY.

"OFF" HOW?

A LITTLE OFF, YOU SAY?

YOU MUST HAVE ASKED NAGATO TO FIX THE LOTTERY.

YOU SEEMED A LITTLE OFF DURING THE PATROL, SO THAT MUST HAVE BEEN IT.

ON SUNDAY, WHEN I WAS AT THE BOOK-STORE... AROUND 11 A.M.?

BUT... OH, RIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT.

UM, IT WAS JUST A FEELING I GOT.

AND THAT IT WASN'T A GOOD JOKE AT ALL.

THAT THERE WAS A WEIRD CALL.

YES, THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.

SUZUMIYA-SAN GOT A PRANK CALL FROM YOU ON HER PHONE.

*AFTER I THREW THE TURTLE INTO THE RIVER, APPARENTLY I HAD TO CALL UP HARUHI AND TELL HER A BAD JOKE.*

*SO NOW I HAD ANOTHER MYSTE-RIOUS PRE-DICTION TO FULFILL.*

THANK YOU, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

AND A TURTLE, HUH...?

OH WELL, GUESS I'LL BUY ONE.

GEEZ, PLANS ARE REALLY PILING UP.

WELL, WELL, WELL, YOU TWO CERTAINLY TOOK YOUR TIME!

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD?

NOT! OF COURSE

WERE YOU PEEPING IN ON US?

GOOD THING I DIDN'T...

HECK NO!

JIRIRIRIRI (RRRRING)

IT'S MORNING!

KITTY SCARF!

LOOK, LOOK!

ARE YOU GONNA HAVE BREAK-FAST?

YEAH.

KUCK'S

YOU JERK!

THAT'S RIGHT, TIME TO FACE FOR-WARD.

I SHOULD JUST BE GLAD IT'S NOT RAINING.

HEY! STOP IGNORING ME!

I WISH WE COULD'VE DONE THIS ON A WARMER DAY, BUT HARUHI DIDN'T CARE.

I SAID I WAS SORRY!

DON'T YOU FEEL A LITTLE BAD, MAKING YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF WAIT?

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS THE LATE ONE, HUH?

BASIC

NATURAL

CASUAL

RIGHT ...

AND ONE GUY WHO'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

WELL... WE'RE CHANGING UP AND HEADING OUT!

BURORO (VROOM)

THIS WASN'T BAD AT ALL.

OH, BUT DON'T EXPECT THEM TO BE VERY FANCY.

I MADE LUNCHES FOR EVERY-ONE.

THE IDEA OF ME SENDING THIS GIRL BACK IN TIME.

THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND.

I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT!

I HOPE I DID A GOOD JOB WITH THEM.

BAAN (BAM)

WE'RE GOING AFTER TREASURE!

WE'RE NOT OUT HERE TO PLAY AROUND!

RIGHT, RIGHT...

...BUT DON'T FORGET TODAY'S GOAL!

HEY, KYON! LUNCHES ARE FINE...

WE WERE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF MT. TSURUYA (?) FROM THE SIDE WE'D VISITED THE DAY BEFORE LAST.

SOON WE FOUND OURSELVES SO SURROUNDED BY NATURE THAT THE BUSY TRAIN STATION SEEMED LIKE A DREAM.

WE RATTLED AROUND THE BUS FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.

HURRY UP AND WALK!

IT WOULD BE EASIER TO REACH THE SUMMIT FROM THIS SIDE.

IT SEEMED THE OTHER SIDE WAS THE "BACK" OF THE MOUNTAIN.

HARUHI'S GOAL WAS ALWAYS THE TOP.

THAT'S THE MOST OBVIOUS SPOT TO BURY SOME-THING!

FIRST WE'LL HEAD TO THE PEAK!

WHY THE LONG FACE?

HE ALSO KNEW THERE WAS ANOTHER ASAHINA IN THIS TIME PERIOD.

I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANY-THING.

YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.

HMMM.

IT WASN'T MUCH OF A MOUNTAIN, SO THERE WASN'T A LOT OF ROOM AT THE PEAK.

STOP COM-PLAINING AND DIG!

THE HALLUCINATION THAT I'D BEEN CAST INTO A GULAG BECAME MORE AND MORE VIVID.

AS WE DUG HERE AND THERE, THE AREA FILLED UP WITH HOLES.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WE WON'T?

WE'RE NOT GONNA FIND ANYTHING JUST DIGGING RANDOM HOLES.

THAT'S HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

THE DAY'S GONNA COME WHEN YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID THIS.

YEAH... BUT STILL.

I TRUST TSURUYA-SAN'S ANCESTOR!

IT SAYS IT'S BURIED HERE, SO IT'S GOTTA BE!

'BA (WHAP)

I'LL GO LOOK FOR A MORE DIGGABLE SPOT.

BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE ON THE PEAK.

*SHE MAKES IT SOUNDS LIKE OLD FUSAUEMON TSURUYA WAS A FRIEND OF HERS.*

WATCH YOUR STEP!

'TA (DASH)

KEEP DIG-GING UNTIL I GET BACK!

I'M OFF!

ANYWAY, THIS WAS GOING WELL.

IF MY SENSE OF DIRECTION WAS RIGHT, THAT DIRECTION WAS WHERE THE GOURD-SHAPED ROCK WAS.

NICE WEATHER -

IT WOULDVE BEEN NICER IN THE SPRINGTIME-

SPRING ...

I'LL BE A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT BY THEN...

BUT IT'D BE NICE TO JUST DO MY SECOND YEAR OVER AGAIN.

BECAUSE THEN I COULD BE IN THE SAME YEAR AS YOU ALL.

RIGHT NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S AHEAD, BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE AN OLDER STUDENT AT ALL...

I'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU JUST KEEP BEING THE SOS BRIGADE'S SPECIAL MAID.

HARUHI WAS THE ONE WHO FORCED YOU INTO THE CLUB.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ALL.

TA (TAP) TA TA TA

I HOPE I CAN BE A LITTLE MORE WORTHWHILE THIS YEAR.

HEE-HEE, THANKS.

C'MON, MIKURU-CHAN, LET'S GET LUNCH.

HEH, FINE.

WELCOME BACK!

C'MON, I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR CLOSE TO TWO HOURS!

WHAT, TAKING A BREAK ALREADY?

ALL RIGHT ...

WAAA! (CHEER)

LET'S DIG IN!

HERE'S TO HOPING FOR A SUCCESSFUL TREASURE HUNT!

...BUT IT SURE BEAT THE HECK OUT OF AGONIZING OVER THE WEIRD QUESTIONS THAT DOGGED ME.

AS USUAL, I DIDN'T REALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT HARUHI WAS UP TO...

ENJOYING LUNCH IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH ALL FIVE OF US WAS ACTUALLY VERY NICE.

THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A DREAM.

I'M GONNA CASH IT IN AND BUY A NEW GAME SYSTEM WITH ALL THE GAMES I'VE WANTED TO PLAY, THEN GO TO THE USED BOOKSTORE AND BUY BACK ALL THE MANGA MY MOM MADE ME SELL OFF...

HEY, KYON ...

...IF WE DO FIND TREASURE, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH YOUR SHARE?

I DON'T THINK I'D SELL IT OFF EVEN IF I COULD, THOUGH!

YOU GOTTA DREAM BIGGER.

DON'T YOU THINK LEAVING A TREASURE MAP FOR YOUR OWN DESCENDANTS WOULD BE MORE FUN THAN PLAIN OLD MONEY?

I'D LOCK IT UP FOR A WHILE, THEN BURY IT AGAIN.

BUT ANYWAY

I JUST HOPE WE FIND SOME! TREASURE, I MEAN.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT-

U-WAIT, NO-UH-

I HOPE WE FIND SOME-THING YOU CAN'T TRADE FOR MONEY.

RIGHT, MIKURU-CHAN?

OH, WE'LL FIND SOME, ALL RIGHT.

I KNOW THESE THINGS.

...ALL THE TROUBLES IN MY HEAD DIS-APPEARED.

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT ...

I WAS JUST ENJOYING HAVING A FUN PICNIC LUNCH WITH EVERYBODY.

DESPITE THE UNSEASONAL HIKE AND THE POINTLESS TREASURE HUNT...

...FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I FELT LIKE EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE OKAY.

THERE WERE THINGS I HAD TO DO TO ENSURE THAT.

NO... EVERYTHING HAD TO BE OKAY.

OKAY, TIME TO START THE AFTER-NOON TREASURE HUNT!

THIS IS THE PLACE.

IT'S WEIRDLY FLAT, RIGHT?

ごろん GORON (SHOVE)

ゴゴゴ... GOKU (GUILD)

WAIT, THAT ROCK ...

RIGHT, SO, ANYWAY ...

START DIGGING OVER THERE.

THIS IS ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE LEFT.

RIGHT OVER THERE ...

NAGA-TO?

OH YEAH, THERE'S THE SPOT WHERE THE ROCK ORIGINALLY SAT.

IT'S STILL GOING TO LOOK UNNATURAL.

SHE'S SO DAMNED PER-CEPTIVE, AFTER ALL.

GEEZ, I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA HAVE A HEART ATTACK.

GA (WHACK)

HEY, KYON! QUIT SPACING OUT!

WHAT A RELIEF...

GO HELP KOIZUMI-KUN!

UNSUR-PRISINGLY, WE FOUND NOTHING.

GUESS WE'LL JUST WRAP THINGS UP!

OH WELL.

WE'RE JUST NOT FINDING ANY, ARE WE?

I THINK WE CAN GET DOWN OVER HERE.

THE SUN'S GETTING LOW.

LET'S HEAD HOME.

I'M RATHER TIRED MYSELF, AFTER ALL.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

I SUGGEST WE VACATE QUICKLY.

SERI-OUSLY?

NO REGRETS AT ALL?

ISN'T THAT ALWAYS SO?

THE POINT?

WHY NOT ACCEPT THAT SHE'S JUST A CAPRICIOUS GIRL?

I'M JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE POINT OF WHAT I JUST DID WAS.

I'M RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.

SHE HAS THAT POWER.

WHEN SUZUMIYA-SAN BELIEVES SOMETHING EXISTS, THEN YOU CAN BE SURE IT DOES.

HOWEVER, IT DOES SEEM STRANGE THAT THERE TRULY WAS NO TREASURE.

INDEED.

.....

I GUESS SHE DIDN'T TRULY BELIEVE IT HER-SELF.

IT HAD TO BE A PRANK FROM OLD MAN FUSAUEMON.

OR PERHAPS SHE JUST GREW REST-LESS.

SHE'S BEEN STABLE FOR SOME TIME.

HM?

SHE COULD'VE JUST SAID SO...

WHO CAN FATHOM A MAIDEN'S HEART?

SHE DIDN'T TRULY WANT TO FIND ANCIENT TREASURE.

WE CAN CONCLUDE SHE JUST WANTED TO GO ON A PICNIC.

HER MOOD HASN'T TAKEN A DOWNWARD TURN EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT.

IF ANY-THING, IT'S BEEN ELEVATED.

WAIT, SHE'S BEEN STABLE?

EVEN THIS PAST WEEK?

SHE SEEMED LIKE HER USUAL SELF TO ME.

IS THAT WHAT YOU FELT?

SINCE WHEN AM I THE ONE WHO NOTICES THESE THINGS?

HEY, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE EXPERT ON HARUHI'S PSYCHOL-OGY?

THEN WHAT'S THIS DEPRESSED AURA I'VE FELT FROM HER?

THAT'S COMPLICATED IN ITS OWN WAY...

NO...

I'LL GLADLY HAND MY POSITION OVER.

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI : END

# Translation Notes

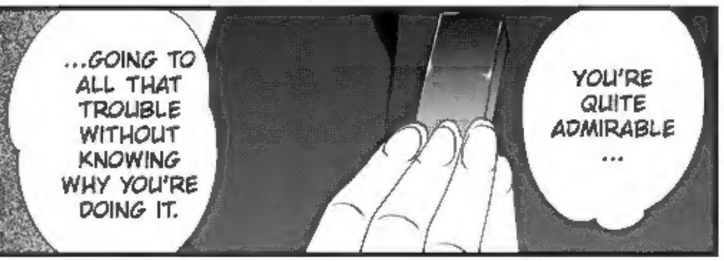
**Page 21**
*Beyond the Pale of Vengeance* (*Onshuu No Kanata Ni*) by Kan Kikuchi is an early 20th-century Japanese novel based on the life of a 19th-century monk as he tries to make amends for the sins of his past. At one point, the protagonist digs a tunnel through a mountain by hand as penance for his misdeeds.

**Page 135**
*Nankin tamasudare* is a type of traditional Japanese street performance. The perfomer chants a poem while manipulating a loosely-woven screen made of sticks to resemble the object they are describing in each verse chant. While the poem has a number of variations based on the performer, each verse begins with "*asate, asate, sate wa nankin tamasudare*" ("Hurry, hurry, hurry, it's the Nankin Tamasudare").

# Harhuhi-ism

Our hearts go out to the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and its aftermath.

Gaku Tsugano



**WHO IS HE ...!?**

**SUDDENLY, A STRANGE MAN APPEARS!!**

**HARUHI SPRINGS INTO ACTION!!**

**MEANWHILE, KYON HAS HIS HANDS FULL WITH CARRYING OUT ASAHINA THE ELDER'S INSTRUCTIONS...**

**...TRYING TO FIND THE PORTABLE STORAGE DEVICE WITH MIKURU (MICHIRU)...**

**THE CLIMAX OF THE "INTRIGUES"!**

# The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

## 14

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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